

WORKFORCE OBSERVATIONS FOR MILWAUKEE COUNTY/WOW COUNTIES APRIL 2003



State of Wisconsin
Department of Workforce Development

Assistance sought from multi-location employers!

Employers with operations in multiple locations (worksites) in Wisconsin, who do not report the number of workers at each location are requested to complete a Multiple Worksite Report (MWR). The MWR are sent to employers during the first quarter by Wisconsin's **Bureau of Workforce Information**. These supplement the data that employers provide on the Unemployment Insurance Quarterly Contribution Report. Similar to the unemployment report, the employment and wage data collected in this survey is confidential and used only for statistical and analytical studies, Unemployment Insurance Program purposes, and the Dislocated Worker Program. Employers benefit because data can be used to assist business planners with new sites location, economic forecasting, and wage analysis. For more information, or assistance on the MWR, contact Deborah Holt at 608.266.5321

March is Rocky for Industry Employment

Labor Force

Milwaukee County's unemployment rate in March was 7.1 percent. This is one-tenth of a point higher over the month and one-tenth of a point lower over the year. The annual change shows a continued soft labor market in this county reflected in the fact that 1,980 fewer people are employed and 450 more are unemployed since last March.

Washington County's unemployment rate was 6.2 percent in March. This is higher, both monthly and annually, by one-tenth and four-tenths of a point, respectively.

The **Ozaukee County** unemployment rate in March was 4.4 percent. The rate is unchanged since February and is one-tenth of a point higher annually.

The **Waukesha County** unemployment rate was 4.9 percent in March. Waukesha showed the best labor force performance of the four-county area as the unemployment rate remained unchanged over the month and declined by two-tenths of a point since last March.

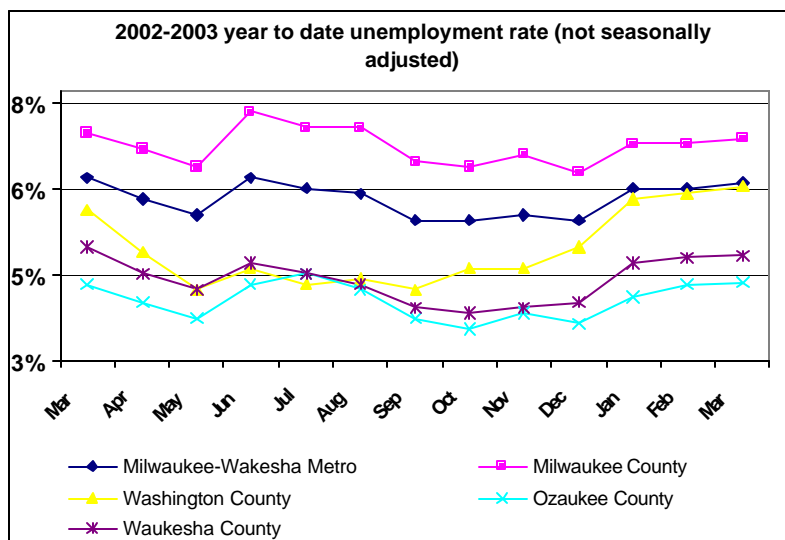
The **Milwaukee metropolitan statistical area** is experiencing its highest unemployment rate, 6.3 percent, for the month of March since the 6.9 percent recorded in 1986. March is a month that usually sees labor force change very little from February, but remains fair game for the highest unemployment rate of the year. 2003 is showing much higher than average unemployment rates that this area has not seen for some time. A good point to remember is that seasonal

trends dictate that the unemployment rate will take a dip in April and May and at this time there is nothing to indicate that the Milwaukee area will not take these strides in the coming months.

Industry Employment

The **Milwaukee MSA** shows a net gain of 600 jobs over the month. There is a very flat rate of job growth in a month that usually spurs job creation numbering in an area of 2,000 to 6,000 jobs from February to March. Gains were seen primarily in services-producing industries such as financial activities (+500 jobs) and in education and health services (+200 jobs). The largest monthly gain was in professional and business services with a typical

March gain that numbered well over 1,000 new jobs. Construction employment was rather flat compared to previous March figures and there is reason to believe that though the industry is still strong, it is slowing in employment a bit. Retail trade is also going against tradition of posting employment gains in March, with a no gain or loss over the month. This is usually the first month of the calendar



year that this industry sees a post-holiday bump in employment.

Annually, there are job deficits almost across the board. Retail trade, leisure and hospitality and professional and business services are key losses to remark. Manufacturing is again at an annual loss, but not nearly as extreme as a year ago hopefully stemming the tide of losses. Financial activities and education and health services have shown good growth over the year.

March 2003	Wisconsin	Milwaukee-Waukesha MSA	Milwaukee County/WDA	Washington County	Ozaukee County	Waukesha County	W-O-W WDA
Civilian Labor Force*	3,083,191	821,813	485,846	70,390	48,811	216,766	335,967
Persons Employed	2,883,499	770,010	451,266	66,012	46,648	206,084	318,744
Persons Unemployed	199,692	51,803	34,580	4,378	2,163	10,682	17,223
Unemployment Rate	6.5%	6.3%	7.1%	6.2%	4.4%	4.9%	5.1%
Total jobs of all non-farm industries** (Thousands)	2,741.8	823.3	523.7	46.8	37.1	215.6	299.5
Goods Producing Jobs	620.4	169.2	81.7	16.0	11.6	59.9	87.5
Service Producing Jobs	2,121.4	654.1	442.0	30.8	25.5	155.7	211.7
Construction, Mining and Natural Resources	105.5	30.0	11.8	2.6	1.4	14.2	18.2
All Manufacturing	514.9	139.2	69.9	13.4	10.2	45.6	69.6
Total Trade	422.3	121.1	66.4	7.3	5.4	42.0	54.7
Wholesale Trade	115.0	40.2	20.3	2.0	1.4	16.5	20.0
Retail Trade	307.3	80.9	46.1	5.2	4.0	25.6	34.9
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	104.6	29.4	21.9	1.5	0.4	5.5	7.5
Financial Activities	152.9	58.7	40.6	2.0	2.0	14.1	17.9
Education and Health Services	363.6	128.2	94.2	5.3	4.4	24.3	34.0
Leisure & Hospitality	226.6	59.1	37.9	4.1	2.9	14.2	21.1
Information, Professional and Business Services, Other Services	425.2	160.6	111.9	5.3	5.9	37.5	48.4
Information	50.7	19.5	13.4	0.5	0.3	5.3	6.1
Professional and Business Services	235.0	99.7	71.9	2.2	3.7	21.9	27.4
Other Services	139.5	41.4	26.5	2.6	1.9	10.4	14.8
All Government	426.2	97.0	69.1	5.3	4.5	18.1	28.1
Change from February 2003							
Civilian Labor Force*	2,000	-2,980	-1,540	-250	-200	-1,000	-1,450
Persons Employed	1,220	-3,380	-1,980	-290	-210	-910	-1,400
Persons Unemployed	780	400	450	40	10	-100	-50
Unemployment Rate	0.0%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Total jobs of all non-farm industries** (Thousands)	9.7	0.6	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0
Goods Producing Jobs	-0.4	-0.6	-0.3	-0.1	0.0	-0.2	-0.3
Service Producing Jobs	10.1	1.2	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.3
Construction, Mining and Natural Resources	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
All Manufacturing	-1.2	-0.6	-0.3	-0.1	0.0	-0.2	-0.3
Total Trade	0.2	-0.2	-0.1	0.0	0.0	-0.1	-0.1
Wholesale Trade	0.5	-0.1	-0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Retail Trade	-0.3	-0.1	-0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	0.9	-0.1	-0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Financial Activities	0.2	0.5	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.2
Education and Health Services	1.2	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1
Leisure & Hospitality	3.0	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1
Information, Professional and Business Services, Other Services	2.9	1.3	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.4
Information	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Professional and Business Services	0.7	1.2	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.3
Other Services	1.6	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
All Government	1.7	-0.7	-0.5	0.0	0.0	-0.1	-0.2
Change from March 2002							
Civilian Labor Force*	68,370	6,150	3,330	910	440	1,480	2,820
Persons Employed	70,410	6,340	3,720	540	380	1,700	2,630
Persons Unemployed	-2,040	-190	-390	360	50	-220	190
Unemployment Rate	-0.2%	-0.1%	-0.1%	0.4%	0.1%	-0.2%	0.0%
Total jobs of all non-farm industries** (Thousands)	6.0	-9.1	-4.7	-0.8	-0.6	-3.1	-4.5
Goods Producing Jobs	-18.3	-6.2	-3.1	-0.6	-0.5	-2.0	-3.1
Service Producing Jobs	24.3	-2.9	-1.6	-0.2	-0.1	-1.1	-1.4
Construction, Mining and Natural Resources	-5.8	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1
All Manufacturing	-12.4	-6.3	-3.2	-0.6	-0.5	-2.1	-3.1
Total Trade	-2.2	-2.4	-1.3	-0.1	-0.1	-0.9	-1.2
Wholesale Trade	1.8	-0.8	-0.4	0.0	0.0	-0.3	-0.4
Retail Trade	-4.0	-1.6	-0.9	-0.1	-0.1	-0.5	-0.7
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	1.7	-0.8	-0.6	0.0	0.0	-0.1	-0.2
Financial Activities	1.3	1.7	1.2	0.1	0.1	0.4	0.5
Education and Health Services	10.5	2.6	1.9	0.1	0.1	0.5	0.7
Leisure & Hospitality	4.2	-1.6	-1.0	-0.1	-0.1	-0.4	-0.6
Information, Professional and Business Services, Other Services	8.8	-1.9	-1.4	0.0	-0.1	-0.4	-0.5
Information	-0.5	-0.1	-0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Professional and Business Services	1.9	-2.0	-1.4	0.0	-0.1	-0.4	-0.5
Other Services	7.4	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1
All Government	0.0	-0.5	-0.3	0.0	0.0	-0.1	-0.1

* Labor force figures are **not** seasonally adjusted and are commonly revised. Figures from "place of residence" survey from the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Local Area Unemployment Statistics program. **Figures based upon "place of employment" survey from the BLS, Non-Farm Wage and Salary estimates.

"XX" indicates that data is suppressed and has been aggregated with other industries. **Month and year ago change figures are rounded and may not sum to total**

Questions and comments regarding this publication are welcome. Direct to: **Eric Grosso, State Labor Market Economist**
201 E. Washington Avenue, Room G200, Madison, Wisconsin 53703
608-266-7034 608-266-5887(FAX) E-mail: eric.grosso@dwd.state.wi.us
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